



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: January 13, 2021

(b) (6)

Schoolhouse Allotment

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

The following are your 2021 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Schoolhouse grazing allotment. These instructions have been developed from collaboration with you and in consideration of Forest Service Handbook 2209.13, Tonto National Forest Plan, associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis, Allotment Management Plan, and available information describing range conditions.

Authorized Use

The following table describes authorized livestock numbers per grazing unit, anticipated use dates, and proposed monitoring dates. Please request a change in this schedule well in advance of the proposed dates. Please, maintain and submit records that indicate your compliance to permitted use.

| Grazing Unit | Dates of Use | Tentative Monitoring Dates | Authorized Livestock | Rationale/Comments |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Highway/Center | January 1 st March 26 th | March 31 st | 5 105 Cows 5 Bulls | |
| Monument | March 27 th June 1 st | June 9 th | 105 Cows 5 Bulls | |
| Lake | June 2 nd August 31 st | September 8 th | 105 Cows 5 Bulls | In case of drought House will be used from June 1 st to August 13 th |
| Schoolhouse | September 1 st October 1 st | October 7 th | 105 Cows 5 Bulls | Alternate pasture for drought will be Corner from August 14 th to November 1 st OR Corner will be used for weaning with original AOI |
| House | October 2 nd November 1 st | November 9 th | 105 Cows 5 Bulls | |
| Honey Butte/Pinon | November 2 nd Next AOI | TBD | 105 Cows 5 Bulls | |
| Bull, Horse | Throughout year | Throughout year | 10 Horses | Horses will be used on and off during the grazing season for management of the cattle. |



Monitoring:

Upland utilization is measured at the end of the growing season in key areas for key forage species. This information, along with vegetation condition, forage plant production and vigor, soil and watershed condition, will be used to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

Riparian utilization in key reaches is measured during growing season to verify residual vegetation is present for streambank protection during flow events.

Grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season to make necessary changes needed for plant development and recovery.

Vegetative Use Guidelines:

Grazing will be managed so conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term in pasture key areas. It is your responsibility as permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed vegetative use thresholds. Please arrange for an allotment inspection if seasonal vegetative use of available forage approaches these thresholds.

| Vegetation | Use Threshold |
|--|--|
| Upland herbaceous species | 30-40% of current year's growth |
| Upland browse species | 50% of current year's growth |
| Riparian herbaceous species | Limited to 40% of plant species biomass and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height on deergrass |
| Riparian woody species | Limited to 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall |
| Streambanks (if applicable) | Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks |
| Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (where applicable) | 20% optimum-40% maximum |
| Annual Grasses | 50% of current year's growth |

Range Improvement Maintenance:

All range improvements must be maintained to Forest Service standards before cattle will be allowed to enter the units. You must receive verbal concurrence for each project before work can begin except routine maintenance (e.g. cleaning dirt tanks, maintaining fence, restoring pipe). It is your responsibility to be aware of and comply with fire restriction.

The following table describes 2020 authorized range improvement projects.

| Pasture | Location | Description of Work | Clearances Needed |
|----------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Multiple | Pipeline on Water System | Replace burned pipeline with a new pipeline | None |
| Multiple | Fences | Replace burned fences with a new fences | None |

Salting:

In most cases, salt must be located no closer than ¼ mile from streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

Supplements and Attractants

Protein blocks, nutritional supplement, and other attractant may be authorized.

Supplemental Feeding:

No supplemental feeding is authorized.

Weeds

Invasive plants threaten ecosystem health and grazing resources. Please assist us in preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Hoskins, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (480) 435-5563.

Sincerely,



KELLY L. JARDINE
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins
Crystal Martinez
Ina Yazzie